

Southern Flyer



908th Airlift Wing (Air Force Reserve Command), Maxwell Air Force Base, Montgomery, Ala., Vol. 41, Issue 11, November 2004

Ex-vice commander bids farewell to unit; says 908th memories fondest of his career

I awoke this past Saturday morning (Oct. 2) and suddenly realized that for the first time in 24 years I did not have to attend a UTA. At first, I didn't know what to do but as the morning went on I took time to reflect about the 26 months that I had just spent being a member of the 908th AW as your vice commander. Here is what I would like to tell all of you.

From the moment I first arrived in June 2002, you made me feel right at home. I guess that just confirms what is really meant

about true "Southern Hospitality." Being born in New York State made me a Yankee by birth. People by nature just tend to be more "blunt" in the region where I come. However, never did I feel that being from another part of the 'good ole USA' made a difference to the people of the 908th AW. What made a lasting impression on me was the fact that people always did their job with great attitudes and I never heard any complaining. Your great attitudes really stand out.

I know I did not get a chance to meet all of you personally over the two plus years that I was there but I hope that some of the initiatives I undertook and those efforts along with the help from your commanders and supervisors made you aware of how important I feel the "people" element is to the success of any mission.

Some of the successes we had while I was there with the PEP program, the Deserving Airmen Commissioning Program, and the new excitement to get involved in Human Resources Development Council show me that there is a true synergy in the 908th AW. Each of you try to do better not only for yourselves but also for your fellow Airmen. These will be some of the fondest memories I take with me.

My time at Maxwell has been an era where we reservists have had to sacrifice and do more to serve our country than ever before. We have done it with honor but I know the personal sacrifices each of you have had to make with your families and your employers to still be a part of the 908th AW are significant. I can never personally thank you enough. I know at times it must seem like a great burden and you may question yourselves as to whether it is worth it but I can tell you from having served nearly 34 years that it has been worth every day of it as I look toward the final years of my military service.

As I undertake my new assignment at the Pentagon, I will never forget the 908th AW and the people in it. I hope to be able to make the annual reunions and will do my best in my new position to continue to take care of our greatest resource in the Air Force Reserve -- every one of you.

Col. C.W. Fox
SAF/MRM
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Courtesy photo

Colonel Fox during his deployment as commander of the 321AEW



Photo by Jeff Melvin

Ready to rumble

908CES's Staff Sgt. Dennis Ellis shows he's ready for the IGX -- he has all his gear and he has his Airman's manual for reference. After countless hours of preparation the 501st Air Expeditionary Wing went to 'war' Oct. 25-31 in Savannah, Ga. The 501st consisted of two Air National Guard units, the 153rd Air Wing from Cheyenne, Wyo. and the 145th Air Wing from Charlotte, N.C. and the 908th. The Air Mobility Command-monitored exercise approximated a breakout of hostilities on the Korean peninsula.

Familiar faces, new places

Last month's UTA featured several changes in leadership positions around the wing. First, Col. Benton Busbee moved from the deputy slot to the top spot to take charge of the 908th Aeromedical Staging Squadron. Colonel Busbee replaced Col. Elizabeth "Betty" Williams, who leaves the 908th to become the mobilization assistant to the Air Force Reserve Command Nurse at Robins AFB.

Reins of command of the 25th Aerial Port Squadron changed as well with Maj. George Baird, replacing Maj. Anthony Meggs. Major Meggs also is headng to Robins, where he will join the Headquarters AFRC Plans and Programs shop.

Last month's other change involved a job swap with the Maintenance Group. 908th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron commander Capt. Travis Shults and Capt. Joseph Friday switched jobs with Captain Friday taking charge of AMXS and Captain Shults assuming command of the Maintenance Operations Flight. (Go to Page 8 to see photos of the new commanders)

My two cents -- a med tech reflects on why he serves

By Tech. Sgt. Jonathan Griswold
908th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron

There are as many reasons for those of us who work as medical technicians and nurses for doing what we do as there are techs and nurses. Many people say that we must be crazy to WANT to do what we do. I think that those of us who do what we do in the Air Force, and do it while flying in large, noisy, and often crowded, missile magnets, are possibly a touch crazier.

Our public affairs officer, Major Lobb, asked me for a memory from this last deployment that stands out in my mind; perhaps something that I found rewarding. In actuality, I find simply being able to do what I do for our patients rewarding: I cannot imagine anyone staying in aeromedical evacuation, or nursing itself for that matter, if they did not. There is crazy, but that would have to qualify as certifiably so.

Frankly, they all stand out and, in time, I hope some of the memories stand out less or not at all. I am fairly certain that I knew what he meant and what he was looking for. I am not so certain that what follows is what he wanted.

After having been a Gunnery sergeant and serving in the Marine Corps for 17 years and now serving with the Air Force where so many of the patients that I help care for are young Army and Marine infantry, there is one memory that stands out poignantly from the rest.

We were flying out of Balad, Iraq with about 50 patients, many of whom were infantry who had been wounded by enemy fire or caught by shrapnel from IEDs. For my crew most of these patients seemed like mere kids; none of us were any younger than 35 years old. Some of our crew have children their age.

The act of flying out of Iraqi airspace brightens almost all patients visibly and as we leveled out from our steep ascent on yet another mission out of there, it once again worked its magic on this group. As I made my way from patient to patient, checking them, their paperwork, their wounds, and general condition I could not help but smile at this young Marine Corporal. He had some of his buddies sitting opposite the litter stanchion that he was in

and they were all obviously happy to be heading home; laughing, joking, and yelling back and forth about what they were going to do once they got home. As

I questioned him, he told me about his girlfriend who was awaiting his arrival back in the states. He pulled out a picture of the two of them together; both with huge smiles on their faces, his girlfriend a beautiful, young, woman with dark hair. He talked on and on while I continued looking through his treatment record and checked his wound dressings. I could not help smiling myself as I remembered how we were years ago when we came home from deployment.

I stopped smiling when I pulled back the blanket covering his legs: he had nothing below either knee.

I thought about the surgeries he probably still had ahead of him. I thought about all the physical therapy he would have to endure. I thought about his parents. I thought about that smiling woman next to him in the photo he had showed me.

Looking back up at his face though, all I saw was a young kid laughing with his friends. He was happy to be going home.

All he wanted to do was go home and see that smiling young woman with the dark hair.

That smiling young woman with the dark hair.



Tech. Sgt. Jonathan Griswold

Photo by Jeff Melvin



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We solicit articles, drawings and photographs and reserve the right to edit materials to conform to "Southern Flyer" editorial policies.

Because of the printing and mail-out schedule the newspaper goes to press on Friday, two weeks prior to the UTA. The submission deadline for articles or information is the Wednesday two weeks prior to the UTA.

For information about this schedule, call Jeff Melvin at (334) 953-7874.

Chaplain pens a tribute to veterans

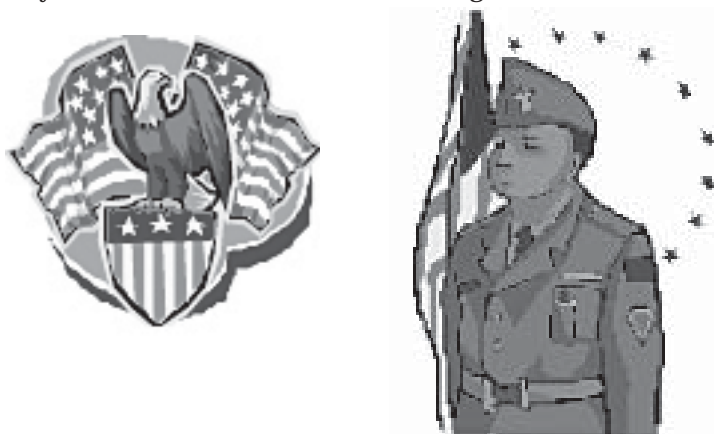
He sits in his chair at the end of the hall
His body now bent, but he'll seldom call

He looks out the window and stares at the rain
His leg's a lot worse, but he deals with the pain

His mind wanders back to friends long ago
Where they are now, he'll never know

They all served together under skies dark or blue
They were so young then, all brave and true

They all served with valor, with courage immense



They crawled on the beaches o're the barbed wire fence

Some tramped through the jungle, bullets over their head
Some came home wounded, lots came home dead

That was his mission, riddled with strife
Now bygone memories, a chapter of life

When asked to serve country, he gave it his best
He lined up gladly like all of the rest

Now he sits in his chair at the end of the hall
When you think of life's seasons, he's well past fall

His days are now numbered, he'll rest under the flag
They'll pack all his treasures in a small plastic bag

The next time you celebrate, and sing freedom's song
You owe life to veterans who have served for so long

Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Bob Anders
Veterans Hospital
Montgomery, Alabama
June 23, 2004

Safety office wishes all happy but safe holidays

First of all congratulations to everyone – once again we endured the “101 Critical Days of Summer” with an unblemished safety record! Thank you for being “safety smart” in the way you do things both at work and home. Now it seems that all too soon the holiday season is upon us! It’s a great time to look back and reflect on the outstanding year and accomplishments that our wing has amassed.

We are entering our second year of mobilization and deployments, had an ORE and an IGX, and did all this with fewer resources. Despite all these distractions we have not experienced one significant mishap. Again this is directly attributable to the meticulous and professional manner that we perform our jobs.



By Lt. Col. Richard Gilchrist,
908AW Chief of Safety

Back to the holidays – Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year’s - this period is the second most mishap-prone time of the year and when coupled with the current world situation presents many distractions that can easily become pitfalls. One of these is traveling - drivers vary in skill, attentiveness, discipline, and risk taking. Responsible drivers manage the conditions they are driving in, the risks involved, and avoid situations where others must act defensively on their behalf. And most importantly, being the professionals we are, I know everyone is cognizant of the consequences of drinking and driving. Remember to plan extra time, take a break every two hours, and use common sense.

When entertaining be responsible hosts. Be conservative when serving alcohol - offer an alternative, and serve plenty of food. If someone appears impaired offer them a ride home – you owe it to your guests.

I challenge each of you to continue to incorporate an increased emphasis on safety in everything you do. Use the ORM process – don’t accept unnecessary risks. Remember SAFETY IS NO ACCIDENT.

In closing, I hope you are able to spend precious time with your friends and family and relax – we all greatly deserve it. Have a merry and joyous holiday season and let’s all be back here to tell about it. From your safety office – “happy holidays!”

Wing people asked to give generously to CFC

The annual Combined Federal Campaign is underway. CFC is a great way to support your favorite charity through either a cash gift or a payroll deduction, said wing CFC project officer Chaplain (Capt.) Jamie Danford.

Contact people around the wing have CFC materials and pledge cards

“We have all had times in our lives when we relied upon the help of others – this is a good way to give back so your gift can help someone else,” Chaplain Danford said.

There are a couple of things to remember, Danford added.

“Traditional reservists can give cash donations but cannot give by payroll deduction. This applies to our activated members as well.

“ARTs or full-time civilians can contribute by payroll deduction.

Again if you would like to give to one of the many worthy causes supported by the Combined Federal Campaign please see one of the many contact people around the wing.

“If there is no one close to your work area – contact me and I will come see you,” Chaplain Danford added.

CFC Contacts

AES – Master Sgt. Beverly Williams

APS – Master Sgt. Melvin Watts

357/OSF – Staff Sgt. Katrina George

ASTS – Master Sgt. Brandy Lindsey

CE – Staff Sgt. Lance Haywood

Flightline: Master Sgt. David Henry

Bldg 1456: Master Sgt. Robert Figurin and Tech. Sgt. William Lyndall

Bldg 845 & ISO hangar: Capt. Shane Toomay

Bldg 1056 – Ch. (Capt.) Jamie Danford and Master Sgt. Martha Roy

Each year, federal civilian and military personnel contribute millions of dollars to the CFC to benefit thousands of local, regional, national and international nonprofit organizations.

TSP season 'open,' don't miss chance to save

RANDOLPH AFB, Texas (AFPN) -- Civilian and military employees can sign up for, or change, their Thrift Savings Plan contribution amounts during the “open season” Oct. 15 to Dec. 31.

This open season applies only to regular TSP contributions. It does not include TSP catch-up contributions, as they are not tied to open seasons.

TSP offers investors the chance for lower taxes each year they contribute, while not having to pay taxes on earnings until they reach retirement.

Contribution elections or changes made between Oct. 15 and Dec. 11 will take effect Dec. 12, for both military and civilian employees. Changes made on or after Dec. 12 will become effective at the beginning of the pay period following the one in which the election is made for civilians and the following month for military.

Specific TSP information is available for airmen at http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/mpf/TSP/thrift_savings_plan.htm. and for civilian employees from the Thrift Savings Web site at <http://www.tsp.gov/> or the BEST home page at <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/dpc/BEST/menu.htm>



Courtesy photo

Desert 9 11 Tribute

Deployed 908OSF member Maj. Maiorana stands next to a MIG-25 that Saddam's troops buried in the sand and we U.S. troops found and dug up. The MIG was next to the tents Maiorana and other deployed unit aircrew members stayed during a mission delivering troops to a

forward operating post near the frontlines. Coincidentally, the date was Sept. 11 so he wrote on the MIG "11 Sept. 2001/2004, We Will Not Forget!" and he and his spouse's names in an impromptu tribute.

Bad day at 'Bad Rock' made better

Vacationing crew chief puts rock climbing, first aids skills to work to avert tragedy

By Jeff Melvin
908AW Public Affairs

A unit reservist on a rock climbing excursion over Labor Day weekend rescued a small boy who had fallen over a cliff and kept a birthday celebration from becoming a memorial.

Stirred from his early morning slumber by the sounds of frantic activity and screams, 908th Maintenance Squadron's Senior Airman Dan Cavender learned that 9-year-old Joseph Simmons had moments earlier plummeted 50-feet while playing among the cliffs at Cherokee Rock Village, a popular recreation area north of Leesburg in northeast Alabama near the southern edge of Lookout Mountain.

"Turns out a young boy had fallen. I jumped up, got dressed and grabbed my climbing gear from the back of my truck," said the C-130 crew chief, describing how he quickly went from restful sleeper to rescuer in a matter of minutes.

Heading for the spot where people were indicating the youngster fell, Cavender, an avid rock climber since 13, judged the drop to be about 50 to 80-feet.

"We heard screaming or yelling below. I had seen a child fall off a cliff before. He wasn't lucky; he died. So I tied off to a nearby tree as quickly as I could — it was the easiest way to set up an anchor and harness. I gave a woman my cell phone and told her to call 9-1-1 but I think someone beat her to it. I threw my rope down and rappelled to the bottom. I couldn't find him at first; he wasn't on the ground."

Cavender continued to scour the area for the boy until he found him in an area where the rocks pinched narrowly together. "Luckily

he had hit on one end and slid into this area and got pinched. It stopped him from falling the other 10-feet where he most likely would have been killed since the area below was littered with basketball-sized rocks."

After struggling to dislodge him, Cavender pulled the youngster free. He was covered in blood and appeared to have a head wound. Three or four minutes had lapsed.

In spite of the boy's disheveled appearance -- shoes dislodged, clothes torn and soaked in blood --- Cavender's was initially buoyed by the child's seemingly no worse for wear considering the circumstances appearance. He said he figured Joseph would be O.K. and called for a first aid kit and began accessing the situation and relaying reports on the boy's condition up top to another climber who had prior experience as an emergency medical technician.

Surveying the boy's condition Cavender noted no obvious broken bones, his arms and legs seemed fine, there were no noticeable puncture wounds and the boy was breathing well.

All signs were promising until Cavender, an Eagle Scout with considerable first aid skills, began examining the boy's head and began fearing the worse -- a skull fracture.

By this time another climber had come down and was able to relay information while Cavender put his Eagle Scout and basic training reinforced first aid skills to use.

"Nothing hit me at the time. I was very unemotional. I talked to the boy, asked him about his parents,

tried to keep him alert (and prevent him from going into shock)," said the 25-year-old University of Alabama-Huntsville senior, describing how he put his emotions in check and went to work.

The boy told the Airman he was there for a birthday party. Cavender said he hoped it wasn't Joseph's. "Not exactly a great way to celebrate a birthday," Cavender thought. It wasn't; it was the group's chaperone's son's birthday.

Fortunately for Joseph, luck or providence combined with Cavender's Boy Scout and military training as well as his ability to remain calm helped make this birthday memorable but not tragic.

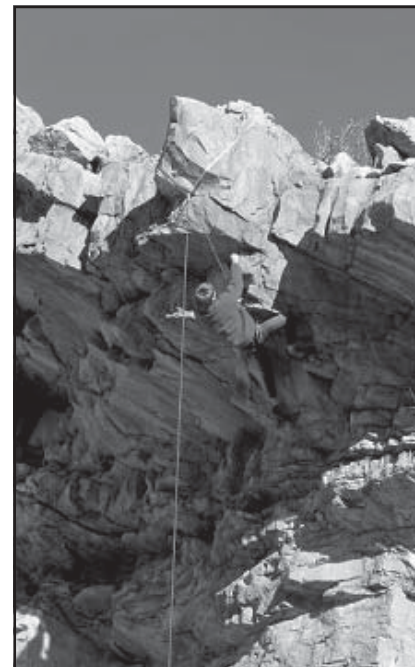
The Airman said he'd called the chaperone to check on Joseph's condition and the news was good. Although he needed stitches

and may require some reconstructive surgery, the boy was released after a three or four-day stay in the hospital.

"He's fine. He's at home and back at school," Cavender said with pride.

As for those emotions he put in check, they didn't stay there. After helping raise Joseph from the cliff and walking beside his stretcher to the Cherokee County emergency services helicopter dispatched to transport him to the hospital, Cavender took a few moments to collect his thoughts and the reality and gravity to what transpired rushed in. He and his roommate "tried to continue climbing but couldn't recapture the 'mood' of

having a good time." So they returned to Huntsville -- a vacation shortened but a tragedy averted.



Courtesy Clip Art



Photo by Jeff Melvin

Senior Airman Dan Cavender gets ready to repair a C-130 tire by using the 'bead breaker' machine to dislodge the tire from its rim. The rockclimbing crew chief rescued a young boy the Labor Day weekend.



Tech. Sgt. Ken Sloat
910AW Public Affairs Specialist

Pulling up into a sun-bleached sky, climbing above the horizon, the roar of the large warbird's turbo-prop engines turns to a whisper. One majestic banking turn later, it flies off into notoriety, gone forever from its Ohio home.

The C-130H model, formerly assigned to the 910th Airlift Wing, was selected by 22nd Air Force to become the Air Force's first C-130 to receive the Avionics Modernization Program (AMP).

The AMP was conceived in the late 1990s when emerging Global Air Traffic Management regulations required an upgrade to C-130 avionics, explains Rick Roach, a contractor with the Aeronautical Systems Center at Wright Patterson AFB, Ohio. This avionics upgrade will affect more than 500 of the 800 C-130s currently in operation around the world, he said.

"We're building the world's most modern cockpit," said Mr. Roach.

The "glass cockpit" layout will be similar to the modern 727 cockpit, said Master Sgt. Tom Fizet, a 910th Maintenance Squadron quality assurance inspector. The term "glass cockpit" comes from the appearance of the six digital color displays that line the instrument panel. These glass panels replace the analog dials in earlier models.

The color displays are compatible with night vision goggles, will give pilots a

Swap out -- AMP links Youngstown to the future

C-130 upgrade gathers steam, tail No. 9101 Maxwell bound, welcome tail no. 41



Tail number 89-9101, minus its the distinctive red, white and blue Youngstown ARS tail markings, is loaded for the trip to Maxwell AFB. Aircraft tail number 85-0041, the Maxwell airplane replacing it, sits in the background.

multi-function color radar, an updated communication system and a single air data computer to replace the three variants currently in use. The upgrade will also add two heads-up displays that allow pilots to gather information such as altitude, airspeed and navigational information, without looking away from the flight path.

The long-term cost savings for the Air Force will be significant, said Mr. Roach. Partially, he points out, because of the reduced number of aircrew members required to fly it. Although there may be missions that require an augmented crew, a navigator would not typically be a part of the crew.

According to an Air Force study, this modification is likely to keep the C-130

flying all the way out to 2040, said Mr. Roach. If the planned delivery schedule holds firm, Youngstown will get their first AMP airplane in 2011, said Sergeant Fizet.

Beyond the cost savings, said Sergeant Fizet, one of the other goals of the AMP is to reduce the 15 models of the C-130 to just five. This cockpit standardization will minimize the variations aircrew members must be qualified on, he said.

The \$485 million contract for engineering and manufacturing development of the initial AMP kits was awarded to The Boeing Company in 2001, but the contract for delivery has not yet been awarded.

Engineering teams from the Boeing Company have already visited Youngstown

ARS to measure and record tail number 89-9101 for the conversion process.

The installation on 89-9101 is scheduled to begin at the Boeing Aerospace Support Center in San Antonio in January 2005 and be completed in September 2005. After a year of flight testing, 89-9101 is expected to find a new home with the 908th Airlift Wing, Maxwell Air Force Base.

At peak production, the Air Force expects to have 70 airplanes converted each year.

"You get attached to them," said Tech. Sgt. Ed Shaffer, a crew chief with the 910th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron. He remembers when aircraft 9101 came here from the factory 14 years ago. She was the first "H"

model to arrive on station here, he said.

"I'll definitely miss it," said Master Sgt. Jason Ehler, now an assistant flight chief with the 910th Maintenance Squadron. Although he was promoted out of a dedicated crew chief position, after six years on the airplane, his memories are still strong.

"It's 50 years old and it's still hauling from anywhere and everywhere," said Chief Master Sgt. Larry Hutson, 910th Maintenance Squadron superintendent.

The C-130 will be around a long time after we retire, joked Sergeant Fizet and Chief Hutson.

In fact, long after their kids retire might be closer to the truth. (Reprinted with permission)

Unit at the head of pack

Unit members here take pride in their reputation as one of the command's premier C-130 unit. And if good deeds and top performances aren't enough to move them to the head of the pack in the eyes of others around the command, the Avionics Modernization Program will literally, as well as figuratively, thrust the 908AW to the forefront. 908th H-2s and E models belonging to the 189th Airlift Squadron, Idaho Air National Guard will be the first in the Air Force to go AMP conversion; the unit's aircraft begin the conversion during FY 08.

Although that seems

light years away, the process that began in October 2003 when 908th's maintenance personnel and aircraft 286 traveled to Eglin AFB for testing inside the McKinley Climatic Laboratory, is gathering steam as evidenced by the arrival here of Tail number 89-9101, and the dispatch to Youngstown ARS of tail number 85-0041.

The testing at Eglin led to a better understanding of the C-130 and its performance in hot/cold environments and will lead to a better design for AMP, said Capt. Jason Rusco, C-130 AMP test manager.



So long old friend, Tail no. 85-0041 sits on a runway at a forward operating location in Central Asia. With the arrival of 89-9101 the aircraft has a new home at Youngstown ARS.

Air Force Reserve Command selects new command chief

By 1st Lt. Lance Patterson
Air Force Reserve Command Public Affairs

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. - Chief Master Sgt. Jackson A. Winsett became Air Force Reserve Command's command chief master sergeant Sept. 28.

Lt. Gen. John A. Bradley, chief of Air Force Reserve and AFRC commander, selected Chief Winsett from among 20 nominees for the position. Air Force reservists from all categories - traditional reservists, individual mobilization augmentees, air reserve technicians and Active Guard Reserve members - applied for the command's top enlisted position.

Chief Winsett has been the command chief for 10th Air Force at Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Fort Worth, Texas, since May 2000. He will be the fourth command chief that AFRC has had since its inception as a major command in 1997

and the 12th person to hold the job in the Air Force Reserve since March 1973.

The position of AFRC command chief master sergeant is a 3-year controlled tour at Robins AFB. The duties

involve communicating with the commander on problems, concerns, morale and attitudes of the enlisted force and, in turn, ensuring the commander's policies are known and understood by the enlisted force.

"My concern is for the enlisted force and the utilization of the force," said Chief Winsett. "I anticipate working hard for the next 36 months ensuring the needs of the enlisted corps are met."

Chief Winsett succeeded Chief Master Sgt. Cheryl D. Adams, who served as the AFRC command chief master sergeant since February 2001. She was the first African-American woman to hold the title of command chief on active duty for a major command. Chief Adams is being considered for a position within the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Manpower and Reserve Affairs. If selected she will report for duty in the Penta-

gon as early as Dec. 1.

Chief Winsett entered the Air Force Reserve in 1981 after serving initially on active duty in the U.S. Army from 1966 to 1969 with tours in Berlin, Germany, and in the Republic of Vietnam.

His duties in the Air Force Reserve included assignments as an administrative specialist, military personnel flight specialist, group career advisor, first-sergeant and command chief master sergeant.

He served as the senior enlisted advisor for the 442nd Fighter Wing at Whiteman AFB, Mo., before becoming the command chief for 10th Air Force.

In his civilian career, Chief Winsett worked for the Federal Deposit Insurance Co. and owned a consulting firm. He retired from both occupations, devoting the last three years to full-time service in the Air Force Reserve.

Chief Winsett has lived in Lexana, Kan., since 1989 where he has been a traditional reservist. He is married and the father of one daughter and two sons.

Chief Winsett holds a bachelor of arts degree in psychology and business and a master of arts degree in business and counseling. (AFRC News Service)



Photo courtesy AFRC News Service
Command Chief Master Sgt. Jackson A. Winsett

Uniform Board listens to feedback, alters design

By Tech. Sgt. David A. Jablonski
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON -- Based on feedback from the six-month wear test, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper decided to expand the current test program to include a pixelated tiger-striped pattern in a new color scheme on the proposed utility uniform.

The expansion does not involve a full test; instead, there will be a limited production to test pattern and color, said Senior Master Sgt. Jacqueline Dean, the uniform board superintendent.

A small, select group of testers will wear the newest pattern. The solid tiger-striped pattern with its dominant blue overtones is gone. The latest pixelated test pattern has a more subdued color scheme and is not nearly as distinctive as the one unveiled at the start in August 2003; yet it provides the distinctiveness Airmen have requested, officials said.

"We kept hearing throughout the test that Airmen loved the wash-and-wear feature and the fit. The design of the uniform will essentially stay the same, with minor modifications based [on] the wear-testers' recommendations."

General Jumper will announce the final decisions regarding the new utility uniform once the test data are analyzed and presented. Determination is expected within the next two months, officials said.

Postal agency publishes overseas holiday mailing dates, policies and helpful hints

By Staff Sgt. C. Todd Lopez
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON -- The dates for mailing items to and from overseas locations in time for the holidays are fast approaching, and officials at the Military Postal Service Agency here have suggestions for ensuring packages and letters arrive on time.

"If packages are mailed earlier, it may be possible to use space-available mail or parcel post service, which would result in less expensive postage rates," said Mark DeDomenic, the agency's chief of operations.

As the holidays approach, mail volumes get higher, and it takes longer for packages to get through the system, Mr. DeDomenic said.

The recommended deadlines for sending mail from the United States to all overseas military mailing addressees for the holidays are listed below.

- Parcel post: Nov. 13.
- Space-available mail: Nov. 27.
- Parcel airlift mail: Dec. 4.
- Priority and first-class letters/cards: Dec. 11 (Dec. 6 for APO 093).
- Express mail military service: Dec. 20 (Not applicable for APO 093).

Mr. DeDomenic said these dates can also be observed by customers sending mail from overseas locations to the United States, and that all dates may vary depending on location.

"Customers should contact their local military post office overseas get exact dates," Mr. DeDomenic said.

People mailing packages need to be aware that customs forms are required on all international mail, and that shipments should be properly packaged before sending them overseas, Mr. DeDomenic said.

"Always use strong boxes with plenty of packing material, such as newspaper or popcorn," he said. "Strapping or reinforced tape is strongly recommended. Ensure fragile items are packed tightly and individually wrapped in bubble wrap."

Postal services in the United States and foreign nations have restrictions on what can be mailed in or out of the country. Mr. DeDomenic said postal customers need to consider these restrictions and also the length of the journey when mailing items overseas.

"Generally speaking, anything that would cause harm to other mail, equipment or mail handlers, or anything that is hazardous to an aircraft

in-flight is nonmailable," Mr. DeDomenic said. "Customers should check with their local military post office for specific regulations. In general, plants, some food items such as meats, alcohol, hazardous materials and flammable goods may not be mailed."

Also critical to getting packages overseas on time is ensuring they have the correct mailing address.

The No. 1 reason for delayed delivery of mail is improper or incomplete addresses, Mr. DeDomenic said.

He said people sending mail to an overseas APO or FPO, should not use the geographical location. For example, do not use Baghdad, Iraq, on the address. This will cause the mail to be placed into the international mail system and may cause severe delays.

Because of security restrictions, mass-mailing operations such as Operation Dear Abby or the "Any Servicemember" mailing programs are not being supported by the agency, Mr. DeDomenic said.

Agency officials encourage servicemembers to support the publicly available Web sites that allow the American public to write supportive letters to them.

November Unit Training Assembly Schedule

Start	End	Event	Location/OPR
Friday, Nov. 5, 2004			
1630	1900	Commanders' Staff Meeting	Bldg. 1056/CC Conference Room
Saturday, Nov. 6, 2004			
0730	0800	Sign In	Orderly Room
0730	0800	Newcomers' Flight Reception	Bldg. 1056/Rm 101/DPMS
0800	0850	Newcomers' Intro/Orientation	Bldg. 1056/Rm 101/DPMS
0800	1100	Lab Work/DNA/HIV/Blood Testing	Bldg. 760/Lab
0820	1500	Physicals (Bring Shot Record)	Bldg. 760/First Floor/Pharmacy Lobby
0830	0900	Pregnancy Profiles	Bldg. 711/Records Room
		Fitness for Duty (Bring DD Form 689)	
0830	1030	Anthrax Briefings (30 min.)	Bldg. 760/First Floor
0830	1230	NBC Defense Training (Refresher)	Bldg. 1154/Rm 119
0900	1000	Wing Mobility Out-Processing	Bldg. 848/West Side
0900	1130	Shots (Yellow Fever, 1030-1130)	Bldg. 760/First Floor
0900	1100	Mask Fit Testing (as scheduled)	Bldg. 760/Second Floor
0930	1000	TDY/PCS Out-Processing	Bldg. 1056/Rm 111, DPMSA
1000	1100	Unit Deployment Managers' Mtg	Bldg. 1056/CC Conf Rm
1030	1130	First Sergeants' Meeting	Golf Course Snack Bar
1100	1200	Operational Risk Management	Bldg. 1056/CC Conf Rm
1200	1300	Company Garde Officer's Meeting	Bldg. 1056/Cmd. Chief's Office
1230	1530	CDC Testing (SNCOA Course 5&12 CD Rom Only)	Bldg. 903/DPMT
1300	1500	Newcomers' MPF In-Processing	Bldg. 1056/Rm 109/
1330	1730	NBC Defense Training (Refresher)	Bldg. 1154/Rm 119
1330	1400	Fitness for Duty (Bring DD Form 689)	Bldg. 711/Records Room
1400	1500	Supervisors' Safety Training Mtg	Bldg. 1056/CC Conf Rm
1500	1600	Gas Mask/A1 Bag Issue (Newcomers)	Bldg. 848/West Side
1700	TBD	Sign Out	Orderly Room

Sunday, Nov. 7, 2004			
0630	0700	Sign in	Orderly Room
0730	0900	PERSCO/MPF In-house Training	Bldg. 1056/CC Conf Rm
0830	0930	Fitness Evaluations (Bring Sqdn Ltr)	Bldg. 711/Records Room
0830	1230	NBC Defense Training (Refresher)	Bldg. 1154/Rm 119
0830	1130	Hazardous Cargo Training	TBD
0830	1130	Pallet Build-up/Joint Inspection	25APS (Various locations)
0830	0900	Fitness for Duty (Bring DD Form 689)	Bldg. 711/Records Room
0900	1000	Wing Mobility Out-Processing	Bldg. 848/West Side
0900	0930	Worship Service (Recommended)	Bldg. 846/Classroom No. 2/25APS
0930	1015	EPR Training	Bldg. 1056/CC Conf Rm
1000	1030	Worship Service (Recommended)	Bldg. 848/Classroom/Com Flt
1000	1100	Wing Career Advisors' Meeting	Bldg. 1052
1015	1100	Weight Monitor's Meeting	Bldg. 1056/CC Conf Rm
1100	1130	Worship Service (Recommended)	Bldg. 1056/Rm 101/DPM
1130	1230	Chief's Group Meeting	Bldg. 1461
1130	1230	SORTS/Commander Meeting	Bldg. 1055/Cmd Post
1230	1530	CDC Testing	Bldg. 903/DPMT Classroom
1300	1400	Chemical Mask Exchange	Bldg. 848/West Side
1300	1400	Honor Guard Meeting	Bldg. 1056/Cmd. Chief's Office
1330	1400	Fitness for Duty (Bring DD Form 689)	Bldg. 711/Records Room
1330	1430	UTA Bulletin Meeting	Bldg. 903/DPMT
1600	TBD	Sign-out	Orderly Room

Support functions' schedule			
Activity	Dates & hours of operation		Location/Ext.
Newcomers' Training Flight	Sun, 0630-1600		Bldg. 1056/Rm 101
MPF Customer Service	Sat, 0800-1200	Sun, 0900-1100	Bldg. 1056/3-5522
		Sun, 1200-1600	Bldg. 1056/3-5522
ID Cards	M-F, 0630-1600	Sun, 0700-1600	Bldg. 1056/3-5522
	Sat, 0800-1200		
	1500-1700		
Reserve Pay	M-F, 0700-1100;	Sat, 0800-1600	Bldg. 1056/3-6722
	1200-1600		
Fitness For Duty (Bring DD Form 689)	Sat, 0830-0900	Sun, 0730-0800	Bldg. 711/3-5714
	1330-1400		
Medical Records	Sat, 0800-1500	Sun, 0800-1300	Bldg. 711/3-5714
Individual Equipment	Sat, 0800-1530		Bldg. 1154/3-6020
Clothing Sales	Sat, 0900-1500		Bldg. 851/3-7505
Restricted Area Badges	M-F, 0630-1600	Sun, 1200-1500	Bldg. 502/3-4283
Vehicle Registration	M- F, 0730-1600	Sun, 1200-1500	Bldg. 502/3-4283
	Sat, 1300-1500		Bldg. 1056/Rm 122C
Geneva Convention Cards	M-F, 0730-1600	Sun, 1200-1500	Bldg. 502/3-4283
Dining Hall	Sat, 0600-0930	Sun, 0600-0930	Bldg. 668/3-5127
	1100-1300	1100-1300	
	1600-1830	1600-1830	
Lodging office/reservations (lodging problems, contact 908th rep via lodging front desk)			Bldg. 1573/3-2401
Photo lab	M-F, 0730-1630	Sun, 1300-1500	Bldg. 926/3-7981

November UTA Lodging

To access the Lodging Reservation System, please follow these instructions:

- * Make reservations, cancellations or changes at least 24 hours prior to arrival.
- * Call Maxwell at 1-800-673-9356
- * Input your unit's authorization code
- * Dial the system at 3-8557 or 3-8558
- * The system will ask for your SSAN, which you will input with the telephone keypad
- * The system will ask for your personal ID number, followed by the "#" sign. (PIN is available through your First Sergeant or Services 3-7332)
- * The system will ask if you would like to make, change, or cancel a reservation.
- * To make a reservation, input arrival date and then departure date.
- * You will be asked if the reservation is ADT, IDT, or both (ADT: Annual Tour, Mandays, Special Tour) (IDT: UTA, AFTP, RMP, Make-up UTA)
- * If this is a scheduled UTA weekend, the system will tell you where you will be staying
- * If you cancel or change a reservation, you will be prompted for a phone number.
- * **The confirmation number you receive is for 908th Services use only.**

Note: You can also call the system direct DSN or Commercial. The numbers are: DSN 493-8557/8558 or COMM: (334) 953-8557/8558.

If you have a question please contact Master Sgt. Byron Godwin at:

Commercial: (334) 953-7332
DSN: 493-7332
E-mail: byron.godwin@maxwell.af.mil
Emergency cell: (334) 657-1304

Notice! Checkout time at Maxwell Lodging for the November UTA is 0800 Sunday. If you do not have time to go to the front desk, and do not have a phone charge, there will be a key drop box located in Bldg. 157 (Main Lodging) for your convenience. Please do not use this box if you have any charges on your bill. In accordance with AFI 34-246 **smoking is not permitted in lodging rooms.** You may be charged a minimum of \$50 for cleaning for violating this AFI.

Airlift will be lodged at the Hampton Inn, Prattville.

Aurora, Ill./Huntsville, Ala. Airlift Schedule

UTA pick-up schedule Friday:

Depart Maxwell at 1530 local
Arrive Aurora at 1800 local
Depart Aurora at 1830 local
Arrive Huntsville at 2030 local
Depart Huntsville at 2100 local
Maxwell at 2145 local

UTA return schedule Sunday:

Bus departs Bldg. 1056 at 1530

Depart Maxwell at 1600 local
Arrive Huntsville at 1645 local
Depart Huntsville at 1700 local
Arrive Aurora at 1900 local
Depart Aurora at 1915 local
Arrive Maxwell at 2115 local

FY 05 Unit Training Assembly Dates

Dec. 4-5; Jan. 8-9;
Feb. 5-6; March 5-6; April 2-3;
May 14-15; June 4-5; July 9-10;
Aug. 6-7; Sept. 10-11

Take Note

Congratulations to the following people:

Promotions

....to Master Sgt.
Rochelle Peterson, MXG

....to Tech. Sgt.
Robert Browder, 25APS
Donnie Spears Jr., MXG

John Vaughn, CES
Latoshia Whitaker, OSF

....to Staff Sgt.
Adam Childers, 357AS

....to Airman
Brandon Ballenger, MXG
Takeldric Gordon, CES



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jay Ponder

Cpts. Joe Friday, left, and Travis Shults after swapping jobs and taking charge of AMXS and MOF respectively.



Photo by Maj. Jerry Lobb



Photo by Jeff Melvin

Maj. George Baird, left, and Lt. Col. Benton "Ben" Busbee address well-wishers in their first acts as commanders of 25APS and 908ASTS, respectively. October was a good month for Baird who later pinned on lieutenant colonel.

Thank you Intel Shop

Our home in Florida was hit by Hurricane Ivan. On Saturday, Chris Anderson, Emory Morgan, and Tony Hall from the Intel shop came to our home and helped us cut up, pick up and haul trees to put in piles. These guys worked very hard for several hours. They also brought a lantern, fuel for the lantern and Coleman stove, ice, sandwich stuff, and batteries. We appreciate them very much and are so thankful for all that they have done. We were truly blessed by them.

They are offering (and probably will) to return next weekend as well and help finish. We live about 2 -3 hours from their homes.

We lost the roof and part of our shed and had roof damage to our house. We also lost 5 - 6 pecan trees, 2 fig trees, 2 pear trees, 2 scuppernong vines.

These are just the facts but I thought it would be a nice to thank Chris, Emory, and Tony publicly for their kind gestures. Thanks guys!

Lori Britt,
spouse of Master Sgt. Keith Britt,
908OSF Intel,
sent Sept. 22, 2004

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908th Airlift Wing
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Maxwell AFB
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To the Family of: